

NCWorks Commission Team



Annie Izod serves as the Executive Director of the NCWorks Commission. She has been with the commission since December 2016, when she began as commission staff. In her role as Executive Director, Annie provides strategic leadership on complex workforce development issues, and leads the research efforts, program evaluations, and strategic and policy analyses related to workforce and economic development in North Carolina.

Annie brings over 15 years of experience in public policy analysis, program evaluation, and qualitative and quantitative research through her previous employment at the US Government Accountability Office, Duke University and NC State University. She is a PhD candidate in Public Administration at NC State University where her research focus is on measuring the performance of networked organizations and the qualities that lead to the success of North Carolina's workforce development boards. Annie holds dual Bachelor's degrees in English and Political Science and a Master of Public Administration degree from Virginia Tech.

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Executive Director



James Bain serves as the Deputy Director of the NCWorks Commission. A native of Winston-Salem, North Carolina, James has worked in the field of workforce development for over 10 years in Central North Carolina, in a variety of roles including; Job Developer, WIA/WIOA Case Manager, Employment & Training Director, and Director of Regional Partnership Workforce Development Board.

James is committed to building regional relationships with our workforce, education and community partners. Additionally, he believes local industry drives the workforce and he is committed to responding to their needs to develop a critical talent pipeline. James recently stated, "As one generation of our workforce transitions into retirement, we must have a viable supply of talent to fill these vacancies."

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Deputy Director

The following **key liaisons** are charged with providing strategic planning, research, subject matter expertise, and staff support to the NCWorks Commission and its committees.

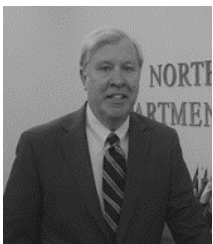


Jade Manley, a native of Raleigh, North Carolina, joined the NCWorks Commission in February 2019. As Director of Local Innovation, Jade supports the Commission by overseeing the NCWorks Local Innovation Fund and highlighting best practices as the author of the Commission's Spotlight on Local Workforce Innovation series, in addition to, conducting research and program evaluations related to workforce development. Prior to joining the Commission, Jade served as the Internal Policy Coordinator and Board of Directors Liaison for the North Carolina Department of Transportation. While at NCDOT, she led efforts of policy standardization by conducting trainings and implementing an internal policy process across the Department. Additionally, Jade worked closely with each of the four boards under the Department aiding in long range planning, board policy and strategy support while providing data analysis on departmental projects. Jade holds a bachelor's degree in Political Science from Winston-Salem State University and a Master of Public Administration degree from North Carolina Central University. She is a certified Lean Six Sigma Yellow Belt.

Commission Staff

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Ken Allen, Director of Business Engagement, joined the NCWorks Commission Staff in May 2019. He brings more than 20 years of Economic Development expertise from roles at the state and local levels. Over the course of his career, Allen has recruited more than 3,300 new jobs and over \$2 billion in new investments in North Carolina. He received his B.S. in Business Administration/Marketing from the University of South Carolina and studied Urban Planning at the University of Virginia. Allen is also a graduate of the University of Oklahoma's Economic Development Institute. His professional associations include the North Carolina Economic Developers Association (NCEDA) and the Southern Economic Development Council (SEDC), on which he serves as Regional Director and Executive committee state director on the Board of Directors.

Allen previously served as Assistant Director/Economic Developer with the Rockingham County Center for Economic Development, Small Business and Tourism. He was responsible for product development, recruitment, existing industry and workforce development. He led the county-wide initiative to certify Rockingham County as an ACT Work Ready Community.

Commission Staff

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Tracie B. Ford is the director of skills and education attainment. She delivers program support to ensure that the Commission members are equipped to meet goals and policy recommendations on how to advance the state's workforce development system. In this role, she also works with committee members to assess the current workforce system and supports strategic planning and research efforts to identify the best practices, goals and opportunities for alignment and improvements. Prior to joining the Commission, Tracie served as the associate director of communications at The James B. Hunt Jr. Institute for Educational Policy and Leadership and public information specialist for the Renaissance Computing Institute, both affiliated with the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Before relocating to North Carolina, she held key leadership positions at the Eastern Division of the West Virginia University Robert C. Byrd Health Sciences Center as director of community relations and development, and executive director of Main Street Martinsburg, Inc. Collectively, these experiences inspired a passion for equity and access in workforce development and education. Tracie holds a bachelor's degree in communications and a Master of Public Administration, both from West Virginia University.

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Lynn Lyle joined the NCWorks Commission in December 2019. Her current role is Executive Assistant to Annie Izod, Executive Director to the NCWorks Commission. Lynn has held various administrative, staff and management positions within the Corporate 500 environment. She has previous employment with the IBM Corporation, Allscripts Medical Technology and the US Post Office. She attended Edinboro State College, Erie, Pa., and is also a US Army Veteran.

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